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SUBJECT Conditions in Dairen

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SOURCE

- 25X1 1. there were about 20 Liberty ships in Dairen, including 7 Soviet There were also 4 Soviet Liberty ships¹ and one 10,000 ton tanker in dry dock. No naval craft were observed.
2. Work goes on twenty-four hours a day. Innumerable welding torches are going during day and night and the stacks of the factories in the area are always smoking.
3. There were approximately 100 steel landing craft on the docks. They were about 85 feet in length, 15 feet in width amidships, and 10 to 12 feet from deck to bottom. There were also 25 small tugs approximately 50 feet long. These craft were loaded on the decks of Soviet ships, with four barges forward and four barges and one tug aft (sic). All were set in cradles.
4. The Chinese labor force on the docks behave like zombies. They are supervised by a civilian and watched from the top of a warehouse by a uniformed female Soviet guard. The labor force has no contact with ship personnel. According to source, there were Chinese-speaking negroes among the labor force.
5. One of the ships in port unloaded bundles the size of rubber bales wrapped in rice matting. This cargo did not require careful handling. There were also about six thousand new, empty 50-gallon oil drums on a wharf. They were loaded on flat cars in two layers of 72 drums each. The train had an armored car with a gun turret mounting two guns in the middle of the car. The turret resembled the tail turret of a Lancaster bomber.
6. All departures of Soviet ships were at night.
7. The sounds of artillery practice beyond the hills north of town and of machine gun practice closer to town were audible from Dairen.
8. Some time between 19 May and 3 June two planes circled the harbor and flew off to the west-northwest. They were twin engine planes similar to the British Mosquito, with white star markings and light and dark green camouflage.
9. There were many anti-tank guns mounted on four-wheel carriages and drawn by Soviet-made, US-type trucks.

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-2-

10. There were many Soviet military personnel in town, including sailors and women in uniform. The uniformed Soviets wore no regimental insignia. There were also soldiers in Chinese khaki army uniforms with a red star containing a symbol which was not the hammer and sickle.² These men did not speak Chinese. There appeared to be few Chinese in town aside from the labor force.

11. There was very little amusement in town aside from two beer bars run by the government. The lights in town and in the port appeared to be turned on by a master switch at sundown. There were no street lights. Violators of the strict seven o'clock curfew were shot.

25X1 1. [redacted] Comment. Source believes that the Soviet Liberty ships in dry dock were being refitted to carry oil.

25X1 2. [redacted] Comment. This might refer to the Chinese characters for 8-1.

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